

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1367

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 7802

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY CLARIFIES GEISEL'S INTENTIONS ON U.S.
VISIT

1. CITING "PRESIDENTIAL ADVISORS", BRASILIA NEWSPAPERS, RIO'S JORNAL DO BRAZIL AND TV GLOBO NEWS ON SEPTEMBER 4 REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL HAD BEEN INVITED BY PRESIDENT FORD TO VISIT U.S. FOR BICENTENNIAL OBSERVANCES IN JULY 1976, BUT THAT GEISEL, "WHILE HONORED BY THE INVITATION", PROBABLY WOULD NOT GO AT THAT TIME. ACCORDING TO JORNAL DE BRASILIA, WHICH CARRIED MOST COMPLETE AND MOST PROVOCATIVE VERSION OF STORY, PRESIDENT FORD'S INVITATION HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO GEISEL THROUGH AMERICAN EMBASSY. WHILE GEISEL, THIS VERSION CONTINUED, HAD STILL NOT COMMUNICATED HIS DECISION FORMALLY TO PRESIDENT FORD, HE WOULD POSSIBLY DESIGNATE VICE PRESIDENT PEREIRA DOS SANTOS TO REPRESENT BRAZIL AT BICENTENNIAL, THOUGH NOT RULING OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF VISITING U.S. ON SOME OTHER OCCASION, " AS THERE ARE QUESTIONS OF REAL INTEREST IN DIPLOMATIC AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES."

2. JORNAL DE BRASILIA INTERPRETED REASONS FOR ALLEGED REFUSAL AS AWARENESS THAT SUCH TRIP WOULD BE "BORING AND WITHOUT POLITICAL, ECONOMIC OR DIPLOMATIC RESULTS OF ANY SORT," AS WELL AS A "HIATUS IN GEISEL'S AMBITIOUS GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAM." ARTICLE RECALLED THAT PREVIOUS VISITS TO U.S. BY BRAZILIAN
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PRESIDENTS OUTRA AND MEDICI HAD ONLY INTERNAL REPERCUSSIONS IN

BRAZIL AND LACKED PRACTICAL RESULTS.

3. SHORTLY AFTER APPEARANCE OF STORIES, FOREIGN MINISTER SILVEIRA CALLED AMBASSADOR TO APOLOGIZE FOR THEPRESS ARTICLES. SILVEIRA TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL WAS CONCERNED ABOUT REPORTS AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY PLANNED TO ISSUE CLARIFICATION. ITAMARATY STATEMENT, WHICH ISSUED SAME DAY, NOTES THAT "PRESIDENT FORD INVITED PRESIDENT ERNESTO GEISEL TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY BEFORE THE END OF 1975. PRESIDENT ACCEPTED THE INVITATION WITH PLEASURE. OWING TO THEIMPOSSIBILITY OF MAKING THE VISIT BEFORE THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE DATE FOR THE TRIP WILL BE DECIDED ON BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS."

4. PRESS CARRIED ITAMARATY STATEMENT SEPTEMBER 5 ALONG WITH FURTHER SPECULATION THAT GEISEL COULD POSSIBLY COMBINE PROJECTED VISITS TO U.S., FRANCE, AND JAPAN INTO SINGLE ITINERARY SOMETIME IN 1976. (GEISEL PLANS TO VIUIT JAPAN IN MAY.) PRESS ALSO NOTED THAT PRESIDENT GEISEL HAD SHOWN VISIBLE IRRITATION IN DISCUSSING THE DISTORTED PRESS REPORTS WITH PRESS ADVISOR HUMBERTO BARRETO AT THE PALACE WITH NEWSMEN PRESENT. CRIMMINS

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